

CHARLES, I. et al.
Serial No. unknown

REMARKS

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page(s) is captioned "**Version With Markings To Show Changes Made.**"

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: Mary J. Wilson
Mary J. Wilson
Reg. No. 32,955

MJW:ecb
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, before the first line, insert as a separate paragraph:

This application is the US national phase of international application
PCT/GB00/02879 filed 26 July 2000, which designated the US.

IN THE CLAIMS

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the organism is a bacterium, yeast, fungus, plant or animal.
4. A method according to claim 1, wherein:
in step (ii) polynucleotide sequences flanking one side of the transposons are isolated to give a pool of sequences and polynucleotide sequences flanking the other side of the transposons are isolated to give a separate second pool of sequences; and
in step (iii) the first pool of sequences is hybridised with a first sample of the said polynucleotide library and the second pool of sequences is hybridised with a second sample of the said polynucleotide library.
6. A method according to claim 4, wherein the library of transposon mutants is a library of *TnphoA E. coli* mutants.
8. A method for identifying a conditional essential gene of an organism comprising:
 - (i) providing a first sample of a library of transposon mutants of the said organism (input library);
 - (ii) providing a second sample of the library and subjecting that sample to a conditional restraint;

- (iii) collecting the mutants that survive the conditional restraint in step (ii) to give a new library (output library);
- (iv) carrying out a method according to claim 1 on the input library from step (i) and on the output library from step (iii), thereby to determine a conditional essential gene of the organism.

10. A method for identifying:

- (i) an inhibitor of transcription and/or translation of an essential gene identified by a method according to claim 1 or a conditional essential gene identified by a method according to claim 8; and/or
- (ii) an inhibitor of activity of a polypeptide encoded by a said gene, which method comprises determining whether a test substance can inhibit transcription and/or translation of a said gene and/or activity of a polypeptide encoded by a said gene.